AMENDMENTS

A. IN THE CLAIMS:

Please enter the following rewritten claims:

1. A method for producing L-aspartic acid comprising:

treating an ammonium fumarate solution with aspartase to generate an ammonium L-aspartate solution;

heating said ammonium L-aspartate solution to a temperature within the range of 50 to 130°C;

adding fumaric acid in the form of dry crystals, moisture-containing crystals, or an aqueous suspension to said heated ammonium L-aspartate solution in a molar ratio of 0.4 to 0.8 to the total molar amount of ammonium L-aspartate and ammonium fumarate contained in the ammonium L-aspartate solution to form a resultant mixture and applying a shearing force to the resultant mixture, while maintaining the temperature between 50°C and 130°C to obtain a homogenous solution;

allowing to stand and/or cooling said homogenous solution to crystallize L-aspartic acid, thereby obtaining a suspension containing L-aspartic acid; and

separating L-aspartic acid crystals from said suspension.

3. The method according to claim 1, wherein said homogenous solution is further maintained at 50 to 130°C for 0.1 second to 1 hour.

4. The method according to claim 1, wherein said fumaric acid and said heated ammonium L-aspartate solution are mixed continuously.

5. The method according to claim 1, wherein said cooling is performed at a rate of 0.1 - 5°C/min until the temperature of said homogenous solution is brought to between 25 and 100°C.

D3

8. The method according to claim 1, wherein the allowing to stand and/or cooling and separating are performed by a continuous method.

D4

10. A method for producing L-aspartic acid comprising:

treating an ammonium fumarate solution with aspartase to generate an ammonium L-aspartate solution;

heating said ammonium L-aspartate solution to a temperature within the range of 50 to 130°C;

adding fumaric acid in the form of dry crystals, moisture-containing crystals, or an aqueous suspension to said ammonium L-aspartate solution; and

cooling said resultant mixture at a rate of 0.1 to 5 °C/min to between 25 and 100°C, thereby obtaining a suspension containing L-aspartic acid; and

separating L-aspartic acid crystals from said suspension.

11. The method according to claim 10, wherein said resultant mixture is a homogenous solution.

D5

16. The method according to claim 1, further comprising washing the L-aspartic acid crystals obtained in said separating with water.

17. The method according to claim 15, wherein the mother liquor obtained by said filtration is used as a source of ammonium fumarate.

18. The method according to claim 17, wherein the mother liquor is used repeatedly.

19. The method according to claim 16, wherein the washing liquid obtained after washing is used as a source of ammonium fumarate.

20. The method according to claim 8, wherein said continuous method is performed by feeding said homogenous solution into a suspension containing L-aspartic acid.